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**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

# Office Action Summary

## Application No.

10/799,052

## Applicant(s)

COLE ET AL.

## Examiner

MIRANDA LE

## Art Unit

2167

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 December 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-46 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-46 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-946)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SE/US)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### **DETAILED ACTION**

1. This communication is responsive to Amendment, filed 12/31/07.

Claims 1-46 are pending in this application. Claims 36, 37, 38, 39, 43 are independent claims. In the Amendment, claims 36-46 have been added, and claims 1, 4, 25 have been amended, or cancelled. This action is made Final.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101***

2. Independent claim 36 recites an article of manufacture for evaluating rules, the article comprising a computer readable medium, it is noted that for purpose of clarification, in light of Applicant's disclosure, specifically on page 34, lines 1-10, in view of Fig. 8, the examiner interprets the claimed limitation "computer-readable medium" as "computer-readable storage medium". As such, the article of manufacture claim explicitly includes hardware elements, which establish a statutory category.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless:

(e) the invention was described in

(1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or

(2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claims 1-46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Richton et al. (US Patent No. 6,650,902).

Richton anticipated independent claims 1, 7, 8, 14, 15, 21, 22, 26, 29, 34-36 by the following:

**As to claims 36, 37, 38**, Richton teaches in a communication network (*i.e. a wireless telecommunications system that uses location or position information to forward specific information to travelers, Summary*), a method/article manufacture/apparatus for evaluating rules (*i.e. rule based preference information, col. 3, lines 31-62*), the method comprising the steps of:

receiving one or more rules (*i.e. receiving airline info when within 2miles of the airport, col. 3, lines 31-62*) from an application (*i.e. Once the threshold, such as 5 miles from the airport, is triggered based upon the location of the wireless mobile unit 201, information is retrieved and modified and results of the expert system of IPA 330 are output from rule-based suggestion engine 600, formatted in element 650, and eventually output in a data push process 660 to the wireless mobile unit 201, through location-based server 221, col. 13, lines 3-23*); and

sending (*i.e. sending data back to the wireless mobile, col. 3, line 63 to col. 4, line 2*) a trigger (*i.e. alerting, col. 3, line 63 to col. 4, line 2*) to said application based on said one or more rules (*i.e. Location-based controller 301 is, for example, a computer programmed to orchestrate location-based services, such as those involving sending data back to the wireless mobile unit 201 (examples of data sent including traffic alerting and location-based advertising). Location-based controller 301 controls the operation of the other elements in location-based server 221, col. 3, lines 63 to col. 4, line 2*).

**As to claims 39, 43,** Richton teaches in a communication network for evaluating rules, apparatus/method comprising the steps of:

receiving one or more rules in one or more nodes (*i.e. base stations 203-1 through 203-4, See Fig. 2*); and

reducing said one or more rules (*i.e. locations at which services are to be performed, threshold positions/geographic relationships dictating when information is to be obtained, etc., are stored at location-based server 221, col. 7, line 64 to col. 8, line 6*) based on subscribers associated with one or more of said nodes (*i.e. the steps involved in establishing parameters defining where, when, to whom, and what information is to be obtained and sent are described in FIG. 5, further defining step 400 of FIG. 4, col. 8, lines 7-23*).

**As to claims 1, 24, 25,** Richton teaches the steps of:

determining one or more attributes of an entity, at least one of the attributes comprising location of the entity (*i.e. information identifying the wireless mobile unit 201, such as a telephone number; instruction information in association with the telephone number indicating kinds of information to be output for and eventually to the wireless mobile unit 201, such as email, traffic information, airline schedule information, etc.; geographic relationship information, such as position or location threshold information, etc.; as well as remote location information including an airport, an office, etc.*); location determining server 303; input device such as a console of an operator 304; and location based preferences server 305, col. 3, lines 9-28);

evaluating said one or more rules to produce one or more results, each of the one or more rules comprising one or more functions that operate on the one or more attributes of the entity (i.e. *The location-based server 221 is responsible for providing all location-based information services for wireless mobile unit 201, col. 2, line 59 to col. 3, line 8*); and

performing, based on the evaluation of the one or more rules, one or more actions specified for the one or more rules, wherein at least one of the actions comprises communicating the one or more results to said application (i.e. *Such a system is capable of: (1) providing wireless telecommunications service to wireless mobile unit 201, including location-based services based on location of the wireless mobile unit 201; (2) monitoring the movement (changing location) of wireless mobile unit 201 as it remotely travels; and (3) providing location-based information back to the wireless mobile unit 201, based on the observed changing locations of wireless mobile unit 201. The location-based server 221 is responsible for providing all location-based information services for wireless mobile unit 201, col. 2, line 59 to col. 3, line 8*).

**As to claims 2, 26,** Richton teaches the one or more functions comprises a plurality of functions (i.e. *such information can be obtained when a user of a wireless mobile unit 201 has satisfied a geographic relationship with a remote location, such as when the wireless mobile unit 201 is within 10, 15, or 2 miles of an airport, col. 4, lines 28-52*) combined through logical operators (i.e. *It should be understood that the location based preference server 305 can associate either or both of the aforementioned information or rule based preference information col. 3, lines 39-62*).

**As per claim 3**, Richton teaches the method of claim 2, wherein each of the one or more functions evaluates to one of a plurality of states and wherein the rule evaluates to one of the plurality of states (*i.e. Such a system is capable of: (1) providing wireless telecommunications service to wireless mobile unit 201, including location-based services based on location of the wireless mobile unit 201; (2) monitoring the movement (changing location) of wireless mobile unit 201 as it remotely travels; and (3) providing location-based information back to the wireless mobile unit 201, based on the observed changing locations of wireless mobile unit 201. The location-based server 221 is responsible for providing all location-based information services for wireless mobile unit 201, col. 2, line 59 to col. 3, line 8).*

**As to claims 4, 27**, Richton teaches there are a plurality of entities, each entity corresponding to one or more attributes, and wherein the one or more results comprise indications of which entities of the plurality of entities have attributes satisfying the one or more rules (*i.e. very complex rules, col. 5, lines 44-64*).

**As to claims 5, 28**, Richton teaches there are a plurality of entities, each entity corresponding to one or more attributes, and wherein the one or more results comprise indications of which entities of the plurality of entities have attributes resulting in a change in status of the evaluation of the one or more rules between a first evaluation of the one or more rules and a second evaluation of the one or more rules (*i.e. The user can therefore be informed of not only normal flight schedule information, for example, but of suggested changes and reasons for such changes. These may involve application of a simple rule in the IPA 330, such as a desire*

*of the user to wait a short time should that allow the user to be comfortably put on a preferred airline, or very complex rules, such as diverting a user to another airport in a large metropolitan area such as N.Y. city, to provide a user with a desired opportunity to meet new associates, col. 5, lines 44-64).*

**As to claims 6, 29,** Richton teaches the communication network comprises a wireless portion, the entity comprises a wireless device, and the entity communicates within the wireless portion of the communication network (*i.e. a wireless telecommunications system that uses location or position information to forward specific information to travelers. As position information of a wireless mobile unit of the traveler is received, it is compared to existing stored position information. Based upon the location of the traveler and instruction information stored in association with information identifying the wireless mobile unit, information particularly useful to the traveler is output to the wireless mobile unit, Summary*).

**As to claims 7, 30,** Richton teaches there are a plurality of entities subscribed to the communication network; and the step of evaluating is performed by a plurality of nodes in the communication network, each node evaluating rules over a subset of the entities (*i.e. The user can therefore be informed of not only normal flight schedule information, for example, but of suggested changes and reasons for such changes. These may involve application of a simple rule in the IPA 330, such as a desire of the user to wait a short time should that allow the user to be comfortably put on a preferred airline, or very complex rules, such as diverting a user to another*



*airport in a large metropolitan area such as N.Y. city, to provide a user with a desired opportunity to meet new associates, col. 5, lines 44-64).*

**As per claims 8**, Richton teaches the method of claim 7, wherein the plurality of entities are registered with the communication network so as to be able to communicate with portions of the communication network (*i.e. a wireless telecommunications system that uses location or position information to forward specific information to travelers. As position information of a wireless mobile unit of the traveler is received, it is compared to existing stored position information. Based upon the location of the traveler and instruction information stored in association with information identifying the wireless mobile unit, information particularly useful to the traveler is output to the wireless mobile unit, Summary*).

**As per claim 9**, Richton teaches the method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of associating a side effect with the one or more rules (*i.e. receive information from other external sources such as a personal schedule 602, and airline schedule 604, and a friend's schedule 606. Such information can be preprogrammed or accessed by IPA 330 in a known manner, col. 12, lines 44-61*) and performing the side effect if the one or more rules evaluate to a predetermined one of a plurality of states (*i.e. Based on stored information, alternate routes of travel can also be provided directly to the wireless mobile unit 201 (when the wireless mobile unit 201 has satisfied a geographic relationship with the remote location or target, such as coming within a predetermined distance thereof, for example). Other types of information forwarded to the wireless mobile unit include, but are not limited to weather information and personal*

*information (such as email, facsimile, voicemail, etc.), col. 4, line 66 to col. 5, line 25).*

**As to claim 10, 31,** Richton teaches the steps of:

*receiving a plurality of supplied rules (i.e. The criteria checking steps 404 and 406 are the heart of the system. In step 404, the location of wireless mobile unit 201 is preferably periodically determined/received. This is preferably done at periodic intervals, e.g., once per second. Next, in step 406, the retrieved criteria are checked at regular intervals, typically timed to mesh with the timing of step 404);*

*determining if evaluation of one or more given rules of the supplied rules produces one or more constant results for at least a selected time period (i.e. The criteria checking steps 404 and 406 are the heart of the system. In step 404, the location of wireless mobile unit 201 is preferably periodically determined/received. This is preferably done at periodic intervals, e.g., once per second. Next, in step 406, the retrieved criteria are checked at regular intervals, typically timed to mesh with the timing of step 404); and*

*preventing evaluation of the one or more given rules for the selected time period (i.e. The criteria checking steps 404 and 406 are the heart of the system. In step 404, the location of wireless mobile unit 201 is preferably periodically determined/received. This is preferably done at periodic intervals, e.g., once per second. Next, in step 406, the retrieved criteria are checked at regular intervals, typically timed to mesh with the timing of step 404).*

**As per claim 11,** Richton teaches the method of claim 10, wherein the step of preventing evaluation further comprises the step of removing the one or more given rules from the plurality

of supplied rules (*i.e. The user can therefore be informed of not only normal flight schedule information, for example, but of suggested changes and reasons for such changes. These may involve application of a simple rule in the IPA 330, such as a desire of the user to wait a short time should that allow the user to be comfortably put on a preferred airline, or very complex rules, such as diverting a user to another airport in a large metropolitan area such as N.Y. city, to provide a user with a desired opportunity to meet new associates, col. 5, lines 44-64).*

**As per claim 12**, the method of claim 1, Richton teaches wherein the step of determining one or more attributes of an entity comprises determining the location of the entity (*i.e. The user can therefore be informed of not only normal flight schedule information, for example, but of suggested changes and reasons for such changes. These may involve application of a simple rule in the IPA 330, such as a desire of the user to wait a short time should that allow the user to be comfortably put on a preferred airline, or very complex rules, such as diverting a user to another airport in a large metropolitan area such as N.Y. city, to provide a user with a desired opportunity to meet new associates, col. 5, lines 44-64).*

**As to claims 13, 32**, Richton teaches the one or more attributes comprise a plurality of attributes, the plurality of attributes further comprising one or more of the following: a mobile station identification, a user identification, a subscriber class, a bearing, and a speed (*i.e. wireless mobile unit 201 can include a satellite position system receiver (e.g., a Global Positioning System (GPS) receiver, etc.) so that wireless mobile unit 201 can determine its own latitude and longitude. In such a case, wireless mobile unit 201 provides its location to a controlling base*

*station, to WSC 220 and eventually to location-based server 221 when requested, col. 9, lines 51-63).*

**As to claims 14, 33,** Richton teaches the communication network comprises a plurality of nodes and wherein each of the plurality of nodes performs the steps of determining, evaluating, and performing one or more actions (*i.e. wireless mobile unit 201 and location determining server 303 may share the task of computing the latitude and longitude of wireless mobile unit 201. In such a case, wireless mobile unit 201 provides an indicium of its location through a controlling base station and WSC 220, to location determining server 303 of location-based server 221 when requested, col. 9, line 64 to col. 10, line 6).*

**As per claim 15,** Richton teaches the method of claim 14, wherein the one or more rules comprise a plurality of rules, wherein a plurality of entities are associated with the communication network, and wherein the method further comprises the step of communicating the plurality of rules to each of the nodes (*i.e. wireless mobile unit 201 and location determining server 303 may share the task of computing the latitude and longitude of wireless mobile unit 201. In such a case, wireless mobile unit 201 provides an indicium of its location through a controlling base station and WSC 220, to location determining server 303 of location-based server 221 when requested, col. 9, line 64 to col. 10, line 6).*

**As per claim 16,** Richton teaches the method of claim 15, wherein each of the nodes corresponds to a defined coverage region, and wherein the step of evaluating further comprises

the step of a given one of the plurality of nodes evaluating rules for entities in a defined coverage region corresponding to the given node (*i.e. wireless mobile unit 201 can include a satellite position system receiver (e.g., a Global Positioning System (GPS) receiver, etc.) so that wireless mobile unit 201 can determine its own latitude and longitude. In such a case, wireless mobile unit 201 provides its location to a controlling base station, to WSC 220 and eventually to location-based server 221 when requested, col. 9, lines 51-63).*

**As per claim 17**, Richton teaches the method of claim 15, wherein each of the entities has a corresponding set of one or more rules, wherein a given one of the nodes determines which of the plurality of entities are within a coverage region corresponding to the given node, and wherein the given node performs the steps of determining one or more attributes of the entity, evaluating, and performing one or more actions for those nodes of the plurality of nodes that are within the coverage region and does not perform the steps of determining one or more attributes of the entity, evaluating, and performing one or more actions for those nodes of the plurality of nodes that are not within the coverage region (*i.e. The user can therefore be informed of not only normal flight schedule information, for example, but of suggested changes and reasons for such changes. These may involve application of a simple rule in the IPA 330, such as a desire of the user to wait a short time should that allow the user to be comfortably put on a preferred airline, or very complex rules, such as diverting a user to another airport in a large metropolitan area such as N.Y. city, to provide a user with a desired opportunity to meet new associates, col. 5, lines 44-64).*

**As per claim 18**, Richton teaches the method of claim 15, wherein a first node corresponds to a first defined coverage region, a second node corresponds to a second defined coverage region, a given entity has persistent data associated with the given entity, and the first node communicates the persistent data to the second node in response to the given entity leaving the first defined coverage region and entering the second defined coverage region (*i.e. The user can therefore be informed of not only normal flight schedule information, for example, but of suggested changes and reasons for such changes. These may involve application of a simple rule in the IPA 330, such as a desire of the user to wait a short time should that allow the user to be comfortably put on a preferred airline, or very complex rules, such as diverting a user to another airport in a large metropolitan area such as N.Y. city, to provide a user with a desired opportunity to meet new associates, col. 5, lines 44-64*).

**As to claims 19, 34**, Richton teaches the step of performing one or more actions specified for the one or more rules further comprises the step of sending one or more messages to an application based on the one or more results, the one or more messages corresponding to the one or more results (*i.e. Based on stored information, alternate routes of travel can also be provided directly to the wireless mobile unit 201 (when the wireless mobile unit 201 has satisfied a geographic relationship with the remote location or target, such as coming within a predetermined distance thereof, for example). Other types of information forwarded to the wireless mobile unit include, but are not limited to weather information and personal information (such as email, facsimile, voicemail, etc.), col. 4, line 66 to col. 5, line 25*).

**As to claims 20, 35,** Richton teaches the one or more rules correspond to a plurality of entities, the step of evaluating further comprises the step of evaluating the one or more rules for the plurality of entities to produce one or more results, wherein the one or more results comprise one or more indications as to which of the plurality of entities has attributes satisfying the one or more rules, and wherein the step of performing further comprises the step of communicating one or more messages having the one or more indications to an application (*i.e. Based on stored information, alternate routes of travel can also be provided directly to the wireless mobile unit 201 (when the wireless mobile unit 201 has satisfied a geographic relationship with the remote location or target, such as coming within a predetermined distance thereof, for example). Other types of information forwarded to the wireless mobile unit include, but are not limited to weather information and personal information (such as email, facsimile, voicemail, etc.), col. 4, line 66 to col. 5, line 25).*

**As per claim 21,** Richton teaches the method of claim 20, wherein the one or more indications comprise a subscriber position record for at least one of the entities meeting the one or more rules (*i.e. The user can therefore be informed of not only normal flight schedule information, for example, but of suggested changes and reasons for such changes. These may involve application of a simple rule in the IPA 330, such as a desire of the user to wait a short time should that allow the user to be comfortably put on a preferred airline, or very complex rules, such as diverting a user to another airport in a large metropolitan area such as N.Y. city, to provide a user with a desired opportunity to meet new associates, col. 5, lines 44-64).*

**As per claim 22**, Richton teaches the method of claim 1, wherein the one or more attributes further comprises a subscriber identification, and wherein the one or more rules correspond to one or more geographical regions or one or more subscriber identifications (*i.e. The user can therefore be informed of not only normal flight schedule information, for example, but of suggested changes and reasons for such changes. These may involve application of a simple rule in the IPA 330, such as a desire of the user to wait a short time should that allow the user to be comfortably put on a preferred airline, or very complex rules, such as diverting a user to another airport in a large metropolitan area such as N.Y. city, to provide a user with a desired opportunity to meet new associates, col. 5, lines 44-64*).

**As per claim 23**, Richton teaches the method of claim 1, wherein the step of performing, based on the one or more results, one or more actions specified for the one or more rules further comprises the step of communicating a rule-triggered event to the application, wherein the rule-triggered event is specified for the one or more rules and corresponds to the entity (*i.e. Once the threshold, such as 5 miles from the airport, is triggered based upon the location of the wireless mobile unit 201, information is retrieved and modified and results of the expert system of IPA 330 are output from rule-based suggestion engine 600, formatted in element 650, and eventually output in a data push process 660 to the wireless mobile unit 201, through location-based server 221, col. 13, lines 3-23*).

**As to claims 40, 44**, Richton teaches said rule reduction is based on a location of a node (*i.e. locations at which services are to be performed, threshold positions/geographic*



*relationships dictating when information is to be obtained, etc., are stored at location-based server 221, col. 7, line 64 to col. 8, line 6).*

**As to claims 41, 45,** Richton teaches said rule reduction is based on one or more attributes of one or more of said subscribers (*i.e. the steps involved in establishing parameters defining where, when, to whom, and what information is to be obtained and sent are described in FIG. 5, further defining step 400 of FIG. 4, col. 8, lines 7-23*).

**As to claim 42, 46,** said rule reduction is based on a movement of one or more of said subscribers (*i.e. Such a system is capable of: (1) providing wireless telecommunications service to wireless mobile unit 201, including location-based services based on location of the wireless mobile unit 201; (2) monitoring the movement (changing location) of wireless mobile unit 201 as it remotely travels; and (3) providing location-based information back to the wireless mobile unit 201, based on the observed changing locations of wireless mobile unit 201. The location-based server 221 is responsible for providing all location-based information services for wireless mobile unit 201, col. 2, line 59 to col. 3, line 8*).

### ***Response to Arguments***

5. With respect to claims 1-46, Applicants have added new independent claims 36, 37, 38, 39, 43 to recite “receiving one or more rules from an application and sending a trigger to the application based on the one or more rules, and does not disclose or suggest reducing one or more rules based

on subscribers associated with one or more nodes” to overcome the Matsuura reference; however, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of newly found prior art.

### *Conclusion*

6. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Miranda Le whose telephone number is (571) 272-4112. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John R. Cottingham, can be reached on (571) 272-7079. The fax number to this Art Unit is (571)-273-8300.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-2100..

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR

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system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Miranda Le/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2167

March 27, 2008